



Artificial islands along the coast of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, September 18, 2006. These islands, still under construction, are being built by dredging sand from the bottom of the Persian Gulf and spraying it from ships to create the desired shapes, which in the case of Palm Jebel Ali, Palm Jumeirah, and, eventually, Palm Deira are palm trees enclosed by arcs. The World site already resembles a world map but will do so even more accurately once the construction is completed. On the mainland, other quite visible human-created features include the network of roads and buildings along the coast and the green color of the well-irrigated areas, contrasting with the tan color of the sand dominating much of the lower right of the image. (Data from the ASTER instrument on the Terra satellite.)